

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BELGIAN MEDIA REACTION

1. BELGIAN MEDIA CONTINUED TO COMMENT JULY 19 ON THE BONN
ECONOMIC SUMMIT AS FOLLOWS:

2. LA LIBRE BELGIQUE WROTE THAT "UNQUESTIONABLY, THE BONN
MEETING WAS FULLY SUCCESSFUL ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL. IS IT
ALSO THE CASE ON A STRICTLY ECONOMIC LEVEL? ... ECONOMIC
GROWTH IS NOT A VARIABLE AS EASY TO MANIPULATE AS THE
FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF BONN COULD MAKE BELIEVE. THE HEADS OF
STATE ARE ENTERTAINING ILLUSIONS IF THEY BELIEVE THAT IT
IS SUFFICIENT TO PRESS A BUTTON TO SPEED UP OR TO SLOW DOWN
THE GROWTH OF AN ECONOMY...PRESIDENT CARTER HAS COMMITTED
HIMSELF TO REDUCING HIS OIL IMPORTS; BUT THESE MEASURES
WILL ONLY HAVE EFFECTS IN SEVERAL YEARS, PROVIDED HE SUC-
CEEDS IN CONVINCING THE CONGRESS. MEANWHILE, THE AMERICAN
TRADE DEFICIT WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE AND TO SWELL THE
ALWAYS MORE ENORMOUS MASS OF EURO-DOLLARS WHICH DESTABILIZE
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 14138 191449Z

THE EXCHANGE MARKETS. MOREOVER, EVEN THOUGH IT IS SOMEWHAT
BELATED, ONE SHOULD WELCOME THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED ABOUT
HIJACKINGS...IT WAS TIME FOR THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO RE-
ACT, IN FRONT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. IT IS TO BE
HOPED THAT MANY NATIONS WILL ADHERE TO THIS AGREEMENT."

3. LA NOUVELLE GAZETTE SAID THAT "THE WEST RAISES ITS HEAD.

THIS IS REALLY THE PREVAILING POLITICAL IMPRESSION, AFTER THE BONN 'SUMMIT.' THE SEVEN BIG POWERS OF THE WEST... HAVE MADE COMMITMENTS OF A WEIGHT THAT MAY SEEM VERY MODEST, IN COMPARISON WITH THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH THEY ARE CONFRONTED -- WITH WHICH THE WHOLE WORLD IS CONFRONTED. BUT WHAT MATTERED WAS THAT THESE COMMITMENTS BE MADE WITH THE DETERMINATION, WHICH IS OBVIOUS, TO HONOR THEM."

4. LE SOIR (P. 3) WRITES THAT "THE SECTOR OF ENERGY IS THE ONE THAT JUSTIFIES BEST THE SATISFACTION DISPLAYED BY THE SEVEN. PRESIDENT CARTER'S PARTNERS, AND PARTICULARLY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAVE SUCCEEDED AT ADROITLY LINKING THE PROBLEM OF THE ENORMOUS AMERICAN OIL IMPORTS AND THAT OF THE ATOM. A CLEVER OPERATION SINCE IT NOT ONLY MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN GUARANTEES FROM THE U.S. AND CANADA ABOUT THE SUPPLYING OF URANIUM, BUT ALSO TO PUT PRESSURE ON PUBLIC OPINIONS RETICENT OR HOSTILE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR PLANTS." STIEGLITZ

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